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Book Controversy Involves People

NEW YORK (AP) — Linked in a network of marriages and political associations, the principals in the legal row over "The Death of a President" look like one big family.

A participant in the dispute remarked Tuesday:

"All these people know one another. It's baffling that the thing has gone as far as it has."

Mrs. John F. Kennedy's sister, now Princess Lee Radziwill, is the former wife of Michael T. Canfield, son of Cass Canfield, chairman of the executive committee of Harper & Row, the firm which plans to publish the book.

The former Jane Sage Fuller Flores, a daughter of Cass Canfield's second wife, is married to John Cowles Jr. Cowles is editor of the Minneapolis Star and Tribune, which owns half of Harper's magazine. The other half is owned by Harper & Row, and both Cowles and Canfield serve on the magazine's executive board.

Cowles is the nephew of Gardner Cowles, chairman of Cowles Communications, owner of Look magazine, which plans to serialize 80,000 words from the controversial book by William Manchester.

William Attwood, editor in chief of Cowles Communications, was a member of John F. Kennedy's campaign staff in 1960. Later he served as the late president's ambassador to Guinea and to Kenya.

Evan Thomas, vice president of Harper & Row, is an old friend of the Kennedy family. He edited John F. Kennedy's book "Profiles in Courage," which won the Pulitzer Prize in biography in 1957.

Evans also worked on Sen. Robert F. Kennedy's book about the Teamsters Union, "The Enemy Within."

Another who helped write "The Enemy Within" was John Seigenthaler, then an administrative assistant to Robert F. Kennedy and now editor of the Nashville Tennessean. Seigenthaler is one of those who read and helped evaluate "The Death of a President" for the senator.

In a statement Tuesday defending the decision to publish the book at this time, Cass Canfields said: "The principals involved in this dispute are all people for whom I have deep regard and admiration."